

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 XMB-04 /119 W

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R 130302Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4932

INFO MTN GENEVA 313

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PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, KS

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON RUBBER FOOTWEAR.

REF: SEOUL 0172

1. KOREA TRADE NEWS OF JANUARY 12 REPORTS THAT THE ROKG HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON EXPORTS TO THE U.S. OF CANVAS AND RUBBER SHOES IN 1976.

2. TEXT AS FOLLOW: "THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO HAVE FOOTWEAR MANUFACTURERS CONTINUE TO RESTRICT VOLUNTARILY SHIPMENTS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF FOOTWEAR TO THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR AS THEY DID IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, IT WAS LEARNED SATURDAY.

GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONVEYED ITS POSITION OF THE BILATERAL FOOTWEAR TRADE TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO DECIDE THE SIZE OF FOOTWEAR SHIPMENTS FOR THIS YEAR IN CONSULTATION WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

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KOREA IMPLEMENTED THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT EXPORT PROGRAM FROM 1973 THROUGH 1975, WHICH IMPOSED QUANTITATIVE LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS OF CANVAS SHOES (BTN 700.60) AND RUBBER SHOES (BTN 700.53).

THE ANNUAL CEILINGS ON CANVAS SHOES WERE: 23,020,000 PAIRS FOR 1973; 26,933,000 PAIRS FOR 1974 AND 30,435,000 PAIRS FOR 1975, AND THOSE IMPOSED ON RUBBER SHOES WERE: 7,813,000 PAIRS FOR 1973; 9,376,000 PAIRS FOR 1974; AND 11,251,000 PAIRS FOR 1975.

THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, ARE EXPECTED TO DECIDE THE CEILING FOR THIS YEAR SOMETIME IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, THEY SAID, NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET UNDER WAY BEFORE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DECIDES WHETHER TO TAKE A RESTRICTIVE MEASURE AGAINST FOOTWEAR IMPORTS FROM KOREA.

PENDING SETTLEMENT OF THE MATTER, KOREA WILL LIMIT SHIPMENTS TO THE LEVEL OF LAST YEAR."

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NNN

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